

**Remarks and Arguments:**

This is a response to the Office Action mailed on June 28, 2004.

As an initial matter, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-23. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-9 and Claims 18-23 are not pending in the instant application. The instant patent application was filed with Claims 10-17. Claims 1-9 and Claims 18-23 were cancelled when the instant application was filed.

Applicants will not, therefore, respond to the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-9 and 18-23.

The Examiner rejected Claims 10-17 as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent 4,863,330 ("Ramachandran et al.") in view of U. S. Patent 5,262,961 ("Farone"). The Examiner stated that Ramachandran et al. teach the use of an ammoxidation reactor in a chemical process but does not incorporate the use of a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer. The Examiner stated that Farone teaches the use of a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer for monitoring and controlling the operation of a chemical process system. The Examiner stated that one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the suitability of incorporating the use of a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer, as taught by Farone, for the intended purpose of monitoring and controlling a chemical process utilizing an ammoxidation reactor. The Examiner stated that a person of ordinary skill in the art would accordingly have had a reasonable expectation of success of integrating the use of a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer for monitoring and controlling a chemical process.

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' Claims 10-17 are patentable over Ramachandran et al. in view of Farone. Applicants' invention, as claimed by Claim 10, is a method for identifying and quantifying components in an effluent stream from an ammoxidation reactor, comprising advancing a portion of said effluent stream through a sample cell in a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer; scanning said portion in said sample cell with infrared energy at a plurality of infrared wavelengths, wherein each of said components absorbs said infrared energy at one or more of said plurality of selected

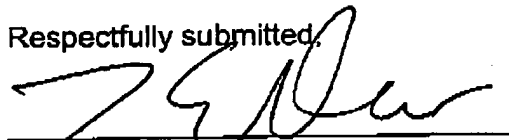
wavelengths; detecting said infrared radiation passing through said sample cell and generating absorbance data for each of said components; and quantifying each of said components by comparing said absorbance data to a calibration curve for each component in a microprocessor programmed to quantify each of said components.

As stated by the Examiner, Ramachandran et al. does not teach the use of a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer. Applicants respectfully submit that Farone does not teach or suggest the use of a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer for identifying and quantifying components in an effluent stream from an ammoxidation reactor. There is nothing in either reference that teaches or suggests the use of a Fourier Transform infrared spectrometer to identify and quantify components in the effluent stream from an ammoxidation reactor. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not provided a basis for combining the references cited by the Examiner in a manner that the Examiner combined them. Although the Examiner stated that there would be a "reasonable expectation of success", it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner provided no basis or explanation supporting such conclusion.

For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of Claims 10- 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and to pass the instant patent application for allowance.

Correspondence Address:  
BP America Inc.  
Docket Clerk, BP Legal, M.C. 5East  
4101 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, Illinois 60555

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas E. Nemo  
Attorney for the Applicants  
Registration Number 33,982  
(630) 821-2459